

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A control system for a motor vehicle, comprising:

a manual actuating means with a plurality of degrees of freedom of adjustment for selecting, activating, or both selecting and activating entries in a menu structure with a plurality of menu levels, and

a screen display having a plurality of display areas for displaying the menu structure, the display areas each including at least one field for displaying one of the entries,

wherein, in at least one level of the menu structure, at least one display area which is active in order to select an entry can be displayed on the screen display, and

wherein at least one subarea of the other display areas is displayed graphically in a different way than the at least one active display area.

12. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the different graphic display can be combined with a timing function which can be activated as a function of actuation of the manual actuating means.

13. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the timing function is implemented as a predefinable time period which is reset and

restarted by actuating the manual actuating means, and wherein the graphic display of the at least one subarea can be changed after the predefinable time period has expired.

14. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the different graphic display can be activated as a function of one of the menu levels.

15. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one subarea of the other display areas can be displayed with at least one of a different color, a different intensity, and a different contrast than the active display area.

16. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of intensity and contrast of the graphic display of the at least one subarea can be changed in a continuously or incrementally decreasing fashion as a function of a further predefinable time period.

17. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one subarea is removed from the display completely.

18. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in the active display area in at least one menu level, at least one of a first and a second of the plurality of degrees of freedom of adjustment of the manual actuating

means for selecting and/or activating one of the entries corresponds to an orientation of entries displayed in the active display area, and wherein at least one of a third and a fourth degree of freedom of adjustment of the manual actuating means for exiting the active display area is respectively orthogonal to the orientation of the displayed entries.

19. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 18, wherein, when the at least one entry is arranged vertically in the active display area, the first degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a positive y direction, the second degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a negative y direction, the third degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a positive x direction, and the fourth degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a negative x direction of an xyz coordinate system.

20. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 18, wherein, when the at least one entry is arranged horizontally in the active display area, the first degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a positive x direction, the second degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a negative x direction, the third degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a positive y direction, and the fourth degree of freedom of adjustment is pushing the manual actuating means in a negative y direction of an xyz coordinate system.

21. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the different graphic display can be activated as a function of one of the menu levels.

22. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the different graphic display can be activated as a function of one of the menu levels.

23. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the at least one subarea of the other display areas can be displayed with at least one of a different color, a different intensity, and a different contrast than the active display area.

24. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one subarea of the other display areas can be displayed with at least one of a different color, a different intensity, and a different contrast than the active display area.

25. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one subarea of the other display areas can be displayed with at least one of a different color, a different intensity, and a different contrast than the active display area.

26. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the at least one subarea is removed from the display completely.

27. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one subarea is removed from the display completely.

28. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one subarea is removed from the display completely.

29. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 12, wherein, in the active display area in at least one menu level, at least one of a first and a second of the plurality of degrees of freedom of adjustment of the manual actuating means for selecting and/or activating one of the entries corresponds to an orientation of entries displayed in the active display area, and wherein at least one of a third and a fourth degree of freedom of adjustment of the manual actuating means for exiting the active display area is respectively orthogonal to the orientation of the displayed entries.

30. (New) The operating system as claimed in claim 13, wherein, in the active display area in at least one menu level, at least one of a first and a second of the plurality of degrees of freedom of adjustment of the manual actuating means for selecting and/or activating one of the entries corresponds to an orientation of entries displayed in the active display area, and wherein at least

one of a third and a fourth degree of freedom of adjustment of the manual actuating means for exiting the active display area is respectively orthogonal to the orientation of the displayed entries.